

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Examiner's letter mailed February 3, 2005, restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35USC121 to the following listed Groups:

Group I. Claims 1-5 and claims 7-8, drawn to a process and apparatus for compressing a loading ram in a chamber to apply overburden pressured to a core sample, classified in class 73, subclass 38.

Group II. Claim 6, drawn to applying lithostatic pressure due to overburden independent of the overburden into a core sample, classified in class 73, subclass 37.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I.

This election is made without traverse.

CONCLUSION

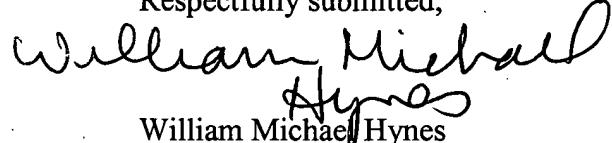
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/757,111
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



William Michael Hynes
Reg. No. 24,168

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
WMH:wmh
60429109 v1